

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein:  
said fixture has projections; and  
said clip has lateral recesses in which said projections engage.
3. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:  
an appliance housing defining a dust collection compartment;  
a dust bag removably inserted into said dust collection compartment and  
having a reinforcing plate with a clip;  
a movable cover selectively opening and closing said dust collection  
compartment;  
a pivotable fixture connected to said reinforcing plate, said fixture having  
lateral guide elements and a surface shaped in at least one of the group consisting of a  
funnel and a trapezoid, said surface and said lateral guide elements bearing said clip  
of said reinforcing plate;  
said cover has an adjustment range with at least first and second positions;  
a locking member pivots in a direction of said adjustment range of said  
cover;  
said cover swings into:  
a first position where said locking member prevents said cover  
from closing when said reinforcing plate is absent; and  
a second position where said locking member permits closure of  
said cover when said reinforcing plate is in use;  
a spring is provided and produces a bias force; and  
said fixture is swivel-mounted against said bias force of said spring.

4. (Original) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein:  
said cover has a closing range; and  
said locking member is a projection attached to at least one of said guide elements and projects into said closing range of said cover when said reinforcing plate is absent.

5. (Original) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein said spring is a leaf spring.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled)

9. (Original) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein:  
said cover has an air inlet connector; and  
said reinforcing plate swivels into said second position by said air inlet connector during closing of said cover.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:
- an appliance housing defining a dust collection compartment;
  - a dust bag removably inserted into said dust collection compartment and having a reinforcing plate with a clip;
  - a movable cover selectively opening and closing said dust collection compartment;
  - a pivotable fixture connected to said reinforcing plate, said fixture having lateral guide elements and a surface shaped in at least one of the group consisting of a funnel and a trapezoid, said surface and said lateral guide elements bearing said clip of said reinforcing plate;
  - said reinforcing plate has an upper edge; and
  - said cover has an inside surface with notching thereon for catching said upper edge of said reinforcing plate.

Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:  
an appliance housing defining a dust collection compartment;  
a dust bag removably inserted into said dust collection compartment and  
having a reinforcing plate with a clip;  
a movable cover selectively opening and closing said dust collection  
compartment;  
a pivotable fixture connected to said reinforcing plate, said fixture having  
lateral guide elements and a surface shaped in at least one of the group consisting of a  
funnel and a trapezoid, said surface and said lateral guide elements bearing said clip  
of said reinforcing plate;  
said cover has an air inlet connector; and  
said reinforcing plate has:  
an upper edge; and  
an air inlet opening with a lower region and an edge running  
parallel to said upper edge in said lower region, said reinforcing plate moving  
downwards by contact between said air inlet connector and said edge.
15. (Original) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 9, wherein:  
said reinforcing plate has:  
an upper edge; and  
an air inlet opening with a lower region and an edge running  
parallel to said upper edge in said lower region, said reinforcing plate moving  
downwards by contact between said air inlet connector and said edge.
16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein:  
said reinforcing plate has an underside and said clip is disposed on said  
underside; and  
said clip tapers downwards in a shape selected from at least one of the  
group consisting of a funnel and a trapezoid.

18. (Previously presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein:  
said reinforcing plate has an underside and said clip is disposed on said  
underside; and  
said reinforcing plate tapers downwards in a shape selected from at least  
one of the group consisting of a funnel and a trapezoid.

Claims 19-23 (Canceled)

24. (Original) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3, wherein said locking  
member swivels with said fixture.

Claims 25-38 (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) The vacuum cleaner according to ~~claim 38~~ claim 40, wherein the locking member includes a projection extending between the cover and the appliance housing in the locked condition to restrict the cover from moving to the closed condition.

40. (Currently amended) ~~The vacuum cleaner according to claim 38, further comprising~~ A vacuum cleaner, comprising:  
an appliance housing defining a dust collection compartment;  
a cover coupled to the housing and movable between an open condition, in which the dust collection compartment is exposed, and a closed condition, in which the cover closes the dust collection compartment;  
a fixture coupled to the housing and including a locking member, the fixture being movable between a locked condition, in which the locking member restricts the cover from moving to the closed condition, and an unlocked condition, in which the locking member permits the cover to move to the closed condition; and  
a dust bag removably insertable into the dust collection compartment and having a reinforcing plate engaging the fixture and defining an air inlet opening, the cover including an air inlet connector engaging the reinforcing plate to move the fixture toward the unlocked condition in response to movement of the cover toward the closed condition.

41. (Previously presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 40, wherein the fixture remains in the locked condition when the reinforcing plate is absent from the fixture.

42. (Currently amended) The vacuum cleaner according to ~~claim 38~~ claim 40, further comprising a spring biasing the fixture toward the locked condition.